

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A home media network comprising:
  - 2 a first device configured to acquire and store digital media content;
  - 3 a transmission medium coupled to the first device; and
  - 4 a second device coupled to the transmission medium, wherein the second device
  - 5 is configured to control the playback and display of the digital media content.
- 1 2. The home media network of claim 1 wherein the second device is configured to
  - 2 determine that a first network user is requesting to access digital media content stored at
  - 3 the first device based upon a first remote identification (ID) corresponding to the first
  - 4 network user.
- 1 3. The home media network of claim 2 wherein the second device is configured to
  - 2 determine that a second network user is requesting to access digital media content based
  - 3 upon a second remote identification (ID) corresponding to the second network user.
- 1 4. The home media network of claim 2 further comprising a third device coupled to
  - 2 the transmission medium, wherein the third device is configured to determine that the
  - 3 first network user is requesting to access digital media content based upon the first remote
  - 4 ID corresponding to the first network user.
- 1 5. The home media network of claim 4 wherein the first, second and third devices
  - 2 are set-top boxes.
- 1 6. The home media network of claim 4 wherein the first and second devices are set-top boxes and the third device is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

1    7.    The home media network of claim 4 wherein the first and second devices are set-  
2    top boxes and the third device is a personal computer.

1    8.    The home media network of claim 1 further comprising:  
2         a display device coupled to the second device; and  
3         an audio device coupled to the second device.

1    9.    The home media network of claim 8 further comprising:  
2         a device interface coupled to the transmission medium; and  
3         a digital device coupled to the device interface.

1    10.   The home media network of claim 9 wherein the digital device a digital video disk  
2    (DVD).

1    11.   The home media network of claim 1 wherein the first device comprises:  
2         a media acquisition module configured to acquire digital media content from a  
3         source coupled to an external network; and  
4         a storage management module configured to catalog digital media content  
5         received from the media acquisition module.

1    12.   The home media network of claim 11 wherein the storage management module  
2    comprises:  
3         an application program interface (API);  
4         a business objects module;  
5         a storage API;  
6         a database API; and  
7         a relational database.

1    13.    The home media network of claim 11 wherein the media acquisition module  
2    comprises:

3                an application program interface (API);  
4                a content acquisition module; and  
5                a code update module.

1    14.    The home media network of claim 11 wherein the first device further comprises:  
2                a media playback module; and  
3                a media control module.

1    15.    The home media network of claim 14 wherein the media playback module  
2    comprises:

3                a frame buffer;  
4                a video decoder;  
5                a video abstraction module;  
6                a media player; and  
7                an application program interface (API).

1    16.    The home media network of claim 14 wherein the first client device further  
2    comprises:

3                an input abstraction module;  
4                a user interface renderer;  
5                remote control input/output (I/O);  
6                an application infrastructure; and  
7                one or more applications.

1    17.    The home media network of claim 1 wherein the second device comprises:  
2                a media playback module; and

3 a media control module.

1 18. The home media network of claim 17 wherein the media playback module  
2 comprises:

3 a frame buffer;  
4 a video decoder;  
5 a video abstraction module;  
6 a media player; and  
7 an application program interface (API).

1 19. The home media network of claim 17 wherein the first client device further  
2 comprises:

3 an input abstraction module;  
4 a user interface renderer;  
5 remote control input/output (I/O);  
6 an application infrastructure; and  
7 one or more applications.

1 20. A method comprising:

2 receiving a request at a control module from a first remote device to access media  
3 data from a storage management module;  
4 determining at the control module that a first user is requesting access to the data  
5 based upon a first remote identification (ID);  
6 opening a data stream between a playback module and the storage management  
7 module; and  
8 receiving the data at the playback module.

1 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising processing the request at the control  
2 module after the request is received at the control module.

1       22.     The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
2              analyzing the user information at the control module in order to determine  
3              whether the first user is to be granted access to the data; and  
4              accessing a database at the storage management module.

1       23.     The method of claim 20 further comprising displaying the data at a display device  
2     coupled to the playback module.

1       24.     The method of claim 20 wherein determining that a first user is requesting access  
2     to the data based upon a remote ID comprises:  
3              receiving remote control data from the first remote control device;  
4              extracting the first remote ID from the remote control data; and  
5              accessing an index table that correlates the first remote ID with the first user.

1       25.     The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
2              receiving a second request at the control module from a second remote device to  
3     access the media data from the storage management module;  
4              determining at the control module that a second user is requesting access to the  
5     data based upon a second remote ID;  
6              opening a second data stream between the playback module and the storage  
7     management module; and  
8              receiving the data at the playback module.

1       26.     The method of claim 25 wherein determining that a second user is requesting  
2     access to the data based upon a remote ID comprises:  
3              receiving remote control data from the second remote control device;  
4              extracting the second remote ID from the remote control data; and

5           accessing an index table that correlates the second remote ID with the second  
6       user.

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